

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-58, 91-100, and 105-144 are pending in the application. Claims 58, 91-94, 106-112, 114-122, 124-137, 139, 141, and 143 were rejected in the Office Action. Claims 113, 123, 138, 140, 142 and 144 were objected to in the Office Action. Claims 1-57, 95-100, and 105 are allowed. Claims 58, 91, 93, 106, 120, 127, 137, 139, 141, and 143 are amended herein. Claims 113, 123, 138 and 142 are cancelled herein. After the entry of these amendments and cancellations, Claims 1-58, 91-100, 105-112, 114-122, 124-137, 139-141, and 143-144 are pending in the application.

The Claims

35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103

Claims 58, 91-94, 106-112, 115-122, 124-128, 130-136, 137, 139, 141, and 143 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Peyret et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,923,884, hereafter "Peyret" or the "884 patent") and Claims 114 and 129 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peyret in view of Martineau (U.S. Patent Number 5,915,226). Applicants traverse these rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 113, 123, 138, 140, 142 and 144 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 1-57, 95-100, and 105.

On January 22, 2001 the undersigned, inventor Michael Montgomery and the Examiner discussed this application in a telephonic interview. The above amendments either amend the previously rejected independent claims to include limitations that the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter or limitations which the Examiner indicated in the telephonic interview to render the claims allowable. Applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance based on the Examiner's statements of allowable subject matter in previous office actions and in said telephonic interview.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and the claims, and their early allowance.

Conclusion

It is submitted that all the claims now in the application are allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and claims and its early allowance. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephonic interview, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with this Response as has been indicated on the transmittal letter. If Applicant is in error as to these fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 19-0597.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pehr B. Jansson
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Enclosures:

1. Acknowledgment Postcard
2. Transmittal Form (1 page)
3. Amendment Transmittal Letter and duplicate copy (2 pages)

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